



Docket No. 1948-4628

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Patent Application of:  
Armiroli et al

Serial No.: 09/473,012

Filed: October 1, 1999

Title: ALTERNATOR FOR A VEHICLE WITH TAKE-UP  
OF PLAY ON THE INTER-POLE MAGNETS

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: Group Art Unit: 2834

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: Examiner: Tran Nguyen

:  
: Dated: August 14, 2001

#111/C-Pre  
Hawkins  
8/30/01

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Box RCE  
Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This Amendment and Request for Reconsideration is submitted in response to an outstanding Office Action dated **March 14, 2000**, the shortened statutory period for response having expired on **June 14, 2001**. Accordingly, a petition for an appropriate extension of time and the corresponding fee is attached hereto. The Amendment accompanies a request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. 1.114.

Please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

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1. An alternator for a vehicle, comprising  
two pole pieces having interlaced poles, and  
a magnet, the poles including grooves profiled along an axis, the grooves accommodating the magnet between the interlaced poles of the pole pieces, the groove profile completely preventing the magnet escaping from the grooves in a plane perpendicular to the axis, and  
a strip interposed between a face of the magnet and a first portion of at least one of the grooves, the strip being produced from a material which is less hard than the magnet.